

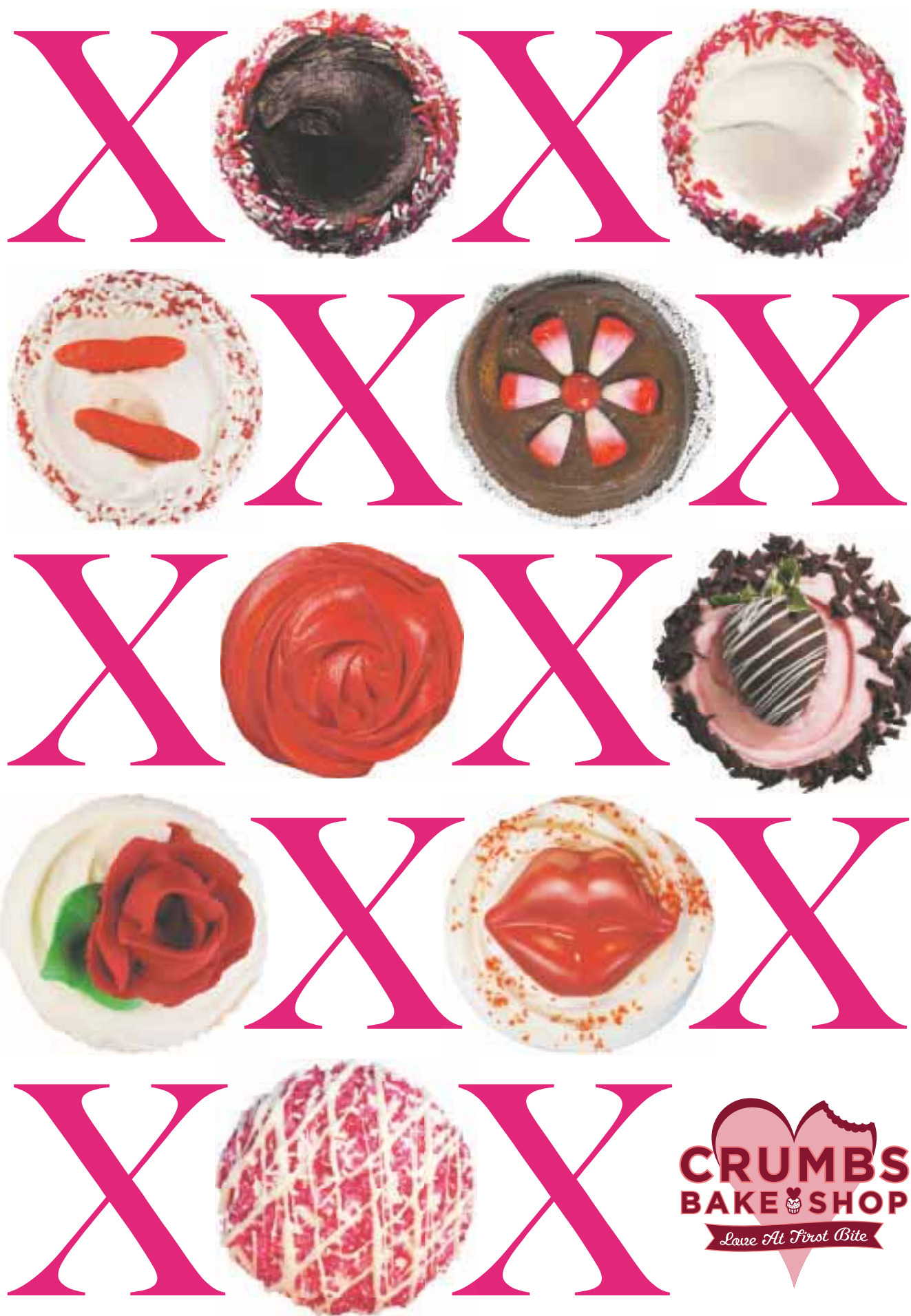
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RALPH LAUREN
HEATS UP
FASHION WEEK

PAGE 23

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Hart-throb

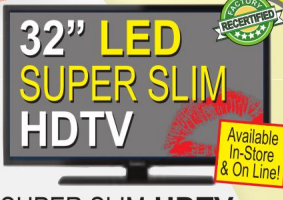
Reel talk. Kevin Hart talks social media and his critics upon the release of his new rom-com, "About Last Night." (And we didn't hate it!) **Valentine's Day.**

We round up the holiday's other film releases, and give you a list of films in which romance amazingly and spectacularly failed.

PAGES 13, 14, 16, 17

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1 NEWS

To our readers

Metro will not publish on Monday, Feb. 17, in recognition of the President's Day holiday, but be sure to stay informed by visiting us at Metro.us. We will resume our regular publishing schedule on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Mayor defends keeping

Avalanche. Bill De Blasio faced a barrage of criticism for making kids trek through the snow.

Mayor Bill de Blasio defended his administration's decision to keep the city's schools open despite a massive nor'easter slamming the five boroughs.

Even as forecasters predicted as much as 12 inches of snow blanketing New York City on Thursday, the mayor said that there was no sign the 1.1 million public school students couldn't make it to their classrooms.

Flanked by agency heads at the Office of Emergency Management in Brooklyn, de Blasio fought against criticism that the city put students in danger by keeping schools open.

"I want to make it 100 percent clear," he said, "as a parent and having a chan-

Money

Breaking down the city's snow budget

With six snowstorms in six weeks, the de Blasio administration continues to brace for bad weather.

On Wednesday, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced an additional \$35 million would go to the Department of Sanitation, charged with the city's snow removal efforts, so as to compensate for the blustery winter weather.

De Blasio's budget boost now gives the Sanitation Department a total \$92 billion budget through the end of June.



The city faced a chorus of criticism for keeping New York City public schools open during the snow-laden day. / GETTY IMAGES

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city schools open



cellor who is parent and a lifelong teacher, we make these decisions with the safety of our children in mind at all times."

School closures due to snow have been rare, de Blasio added. Over the last 35 years, there have only been 11 snow days, he said.

The average school day has an average 90 percent turnout rate, but Thursday's turnout numbers showed only half of that, about 45 percent, went to class on Thursday.

The decision to keep public schools open was made Wednesday night, Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina said, because the city anticipated warmer temperatures.

At least one politician fired back at the administration. Public Advocate Letitia James said she was concerned about the conditions during the stormy morning and evening.

"It is clear that a re-evaluation of the criteria for closing New York City

Quoted

"It is clear that a re-evaluation of the criteria for closing New York City schools is needed after today's storm."

James

schools is needed after today's storm," James said.

De Blasio also responded to NBC weatherman Al Roker, who sent out a barrage of tweets criticizing the administration for not closing schools. The "Today Show" co-star used Twitter to predict de Blasio would only have a single term.

"I respect Al Roker a lot, watched him on TV for many years," de Blasio said. "It's a different thing to run a city than give the weather on TV," de Blasio said.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
chester.soria@metro.us

Deadly storm

Pregnant woman dies after being struck by snowplow in Brooklyn

A pregnant woman was killed after a private snowplow backed into her in Brooklyn Thursday, police said, but doctors were able to save her baby.

Min Lin, 36, was rushed to a nearby hospital around 10:45 a.m. after the Bobcat plow hit her behind a supermar-

ket in Sunset Park.

Authorities found Lin lying on the ground with severe body trauma in the rear of the Fei Long Market on 63rd Street near Eighth Avenue, a few blocks from where she lived. She was rushed to Maimonides Medical Center and pronounced dead.

Police said Lin died at the hospital, but doctors were able to save her baby boy. The plow driver, 42, stayed on scene as police arrived.

An investigation into the incident was ongoing Thursday afternoon.

ANDREA PARK



The snowy weather made it treacherous outside. / GETTY IMAGES

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The Puerto Rican Day Parade will take place on June 8 in New York City. / GETTY IMAGES

Financial probe shakes up Puerto Rican Day Parade

March on.

Investigation found years of financial mismanagement attached to the annual event.

The Puerto Rican Day Parade will march on, but under new leadership.

The nonprofit that runs it has been overhauled after a state probe found years of financial mismanagement, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and other officials announced Thursday.

Under a settlement with the attorney general's office, three members on the parade's board of directors stepped down and 10 new directors were appointed.

Schneiderman's office found that longtime fundraiser for the parade, Carlos Velasquez and his GALOS Corporation, Inc., siphoned off some \$1.4 million in corporate donations since 2008.

The settlement includes \$1.1 million in debt relief and payments to the parade from Velasquez and GALOS. The agreement also requires the parade to adopt new policies

Un nueva dia

"We have reached an agreement that will begin a new day for the National Puerto Rican Day Parade."

Schneiderman

to enhance oversight.

One of the largest ethnic cultural parades in the country, the New York City event is set for June 8.

ANNA SANDERS
anna.sanders@metro.us

Collision

Man charged in fatal crash with bus

A Georgia man was arrested after police said he stole a truck that collided with a city bus in Greenwich Village Wednesday, killing the driver.

Dominic Whilby, 22, was charged with vehicular manslaughter and other offenses. The bus driver, William Pena, 49, was a 17-year veteran of the MTA. **ANNA SANDERS**

Defense. Mayor called cops after ally's arrest

Mayor Bill de Blasio defended a phone call he placed to police after an ally was arrested this week.

The supporter, Bishop Orlando Findlayter, was pulled over Monday night after making a left turn without signaling, but released despite outstanding warrants.

De Blasio called an NYPD deputy chief about the arrest and was told the situation was "settled," he said Thursday.



Findlayter and de Blasio
GETTY IMAGES

The mayor said the decision to release Findlayter was up to the local precinct commander.

ANNA SANDERS



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Snow disrupted commutes in New York City on Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

Severe storms taking a toll on families, schools in Northeast

Disrupted. About 5,771 domestic flights were canceled Thursday, according to FlightAware.

A winter storm that froze the Southeast in its tracks pushed north Thursday, with driving winds and heavy snow snarling travel and closing many schools from Washington, D.C., to New Hamp-

shire, creating havoc for winter-weary parents. Hundreds of thousands of residents in Georgia and North and South Carolina hit by a heavy blast of ice a day earlier remained without power as the storm made its way up the coast, closing much of the nation's capital and threatening to drop up to 18 inches of snow in some areas.

The repeated storms are taking a toll on schools and families, as snow-related cancella-

tions left parents scrambling to find child-care options and administrators looking at making up lost days by extending classes into the summer.

REUTERS

Grounded

1K

About 1,000 people spent the night on cots and mats at Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina, according to officials.

REUTERS

'Catch me if you can'

Biker leads Texas police on merry chase

The chase is on between San Antonio police and a

motorcycle rider who posted a video on Facebook that shows him zooming through interstate traffic at speeds of up to 100 mph with a message: "Catch me if you can."

The police, who are calling the biker a high-priority suspect, posted clips on their own Facebook page showing him weaving among cars on a busy highway. REUTERS

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After the third week:

You will observe a remarkable increase in the length of your penis. Even at rest, your penis will be longer and thicker than ever before. When you look in the mirror you won't believe your eyes. And you will ask yourself "Is that really still my penis?" You will also notice increased rigidity and firmness in the strength of your erection! You've taken Vixalis regularly as directed and the effects are lasting and in "full" effect!

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You will obtain an erection at the slightest touch. These erections will be firmer and more durable than you ever believed possible. Not only will you be able to perform for longer durations, but now you control a penis that my have increased in length by 3 1/2 inches! And think of how much more confident you will be knowing you will be the master in the bedroom!

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APOCALYPSE SNOW

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN.



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Some scientists say Earth is still emerging from the last Ice Age, while others suggest we're heading into a new one.

After this winter, I'm beginning to side with the latter group. Seems like every time the alarm clock rings, I'm getting another warning about apocalyptic cold and snow coming down like Putin on a borscht bar.

Congress periodically holds hearings on the climate, and after the East Coast was walloped this week I assume they'll do it again. Mind you, if Colorado was buried under a thousand feet of ice, many on this side of the Mississippi would shrug and say, "It's February!"

Still, this relentless winter has lawmakers practically hoarding canned goods and it's put an edge on even the tony D.C. restaurant scene. "Donner? Party of six?"

I'm not sure what these Congressional types will ever do even if



The neighbor's cat / COLOURBOX

Quoted

I've heard unconfirmed reports of wolves coming down from the hills to snatch unwary commuters right out of the Starbucks line.

they reach a consensus about global weather patterns, especially if they decide a deep freeze is coming. I suppose mandating seat warm-

ers in every car would be good, and if they can OK cloning woolly mammoths, that would be fantastic. Seriously, wouldn't you love to see those bad boys roaming the countryside again?

Of course, if a big chill is really underway, maybe that will happen naturally. As it is, I find myself with an uncontrollable urge to buy sweaters, my neighbor's cats seem to be developing suspiciously long fangs, and I've heard unconfirmed reports of wolves coming down from the hills to snatch unwary commuters right out of the Starbucks line. "Hey Brittany, I have your latte. ... Brittany?"

I guess in the meantime there is nothing for us to do but endure.

Some people are sleeping at their offices, and they don't even work for dot-com startups! Zombie apocalypse? Bring it on. It's the snowmen we need to fear. (The horror. The horror.)

Memo

NSA: Snowden scammed passwords from colleagues

A National Security Agency civilian employee resigned last month after telling the FBI he had inadvertently let former contractor Edward Snowden use his password to access information he was not authorized to see, an NSA memo sent to Congress shows.

The NSA told the Senate Judiciary Committee in the memo that two other

Quoted

"Unbeknownst to the civilian, Mr. Snowden was able to capture the password, allowing him even greater access to classified information."

The memo says

workers affiliated with the NSA, including an active duty military member and an unidentified contractor, had also been "implicated" in the matter.

The memo said the contractor and military member had been stripped of their access to classified information and secure work spaces last August, but it would be up to their employers to determine "further accountability."

The existence of the memo, dated Feb. 10 and marked "Unclassified/For Official Use Only" was first reported by NBC News late on Wednesday.

Reuters previously reported that Snowden had used login credentials and passwords provided unwittingly by colleagues at a spy base in Hawaii to gain access to some classified materials. **REUTERS**

Out in the cold

Italy PM Letta to resign

Italian center-left leader Matteo Renzi forced party rival Enrico Letta to resign as prime minister on Thursday after criticizing his govern-

ment's failure to pass major reforms, opening the way for Italy's third administration in a year.

Letta's decision to quit came after the Democratic Party, the largest party in the ruling coalition, supported

a call by its 39-year-old leader Renzi for a more ambitious government to pull Italy out of its economic slump.

Letta plans to tender his resignation to President Giorgio Napolitano on Friday. **REUTERS**

Euthanasia

Belgium gives 'right-to-die' to terminally ill children

Belgium became the first country to allow euthanasia for termi-

nally ill children of any age on Thursday when its lower house of parliament passed new "right-to-die" legislation by a large majority vote.

The law goes beyond Dutch legislation that

set a minimum age of 12 for children judged mature enough to decide to end their lives. It has popular support in Belgium, where adult euthanasia became legal in 2002. **REUTERS**

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Comcast takeover of Time Warner Cable to reshape US pay TV

Big time. The deal would put Comcast in 19 of the 20 largest U.S. television markets.

Comcast Corp.'s proposed \$45.2 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc. could face close scrutiny from U.S. antitrust regulators because of the deal's potential to reshape the country's pay TV and broadband markets.

The company resulting from the merger of the two top U.S. cable service providers would boast a footprint spanning from New York to Los Angeles, with a near 30 percent share of the pay TV market as well as a strong position in providing broadband Internet services.

The friendly takeover came as a surprise after months of public pursuit of Time Warner Cable by smaller rival Charter Communications Inc., and immediately raised questions as to whether it would be blocked by the



The new cable giant would still tower over U.S. satellite competitor DirecTV, which has about 20 million video customers. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I don't know if the deal is too big to fail to be approved, but it is definitely too big to sail through either the Department of Justice or the FCC without serious, serious examination."

Reed Hundt
Former FCC Chairman

Department of Justice or the Federal Communications Commission.

Time Warner Cable shares jumped 6.8 percent to \$144.50, still substantially short of the \$158.82 per share value that Comcast put on its offer, indicating inves-

tors' worries about regulatory clearance. Comcast shares fell 3.5 percent, cutting the per-share offer value to \$154.

"Only Comcast could have paid this price and the combined company, if approved, would tilt the balance of power at every negotiating table in media and content and broadband and equipment industries."

Comcast Corp.'s proposed \$45.2 billion takeover of Time Warner Cable Inc. could face close scrutiny from U.S. antitrust regulators because of the deal's potential to reshape the country's pay TV and broadband markets.

REUTERS

Social media

Facebook offers gender identity

For the first time, Facebook is letting users identify themselves as a gender other than male and female.

The basic user profile for members in the U.S. now includes a customizable category among the gender types that users must select, the world's No. 1 Internet social network announced on Wednesday, the day the feature became available for U.S. members using the site's English-language version.

Those who select that option can select up to 10 gender identifications, including "transgender," "intersex" and "fluid."

REUTERS

What a doll. Barbie to grace Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue cover

Red-blooded beauties, step aside: A plastic Barbie doll will join a generation of iconic stunners next week in the Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Swimsuit edition.

Striking a pose in the black-and-white swimsuit she wore for her debut in 1959, Barbie takes her place alongside a host of legendary SI Swimsuit alumni as part of a new promotional campaign with the magazine, Mattel officials said, adding that it uses the hashtag "#Unapologetic."

"Barbie is a legend in her own right, with more than 150 careers and a brand valued at \$3 billion," Mattel spokeswoman



Barbie / GETTY IMAGES

an Michelle Chidoni said. "She is in great company with the other legends, such as Heidi Klum and Christie Brinkley, to name a few."

The cover was unveiled on the late-night TV talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on Thursday and is due to hit newsstands on Tuesday. REUTERS

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Winter Olympics. US men sweep ski slopestyle podium



4

Medal count

	G	S	B	T
1. Norway	4	3	6	13
2. Holland	4	3	5	12
USA	4	2	6	12
4. Russia	2	5	4	11
5. Germany	7	2	1	10
Canada	4	4	2	10
7. Austria	1	4	0	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
9. Switz.	3	0	1	4
France	2	0	2	4

1 The United States is really happy the IOC added slopestyle events to the Olympics. **Joss Christensen**, who'd never made a podium in six World Cup starts, took a surprising gold in men's ski slopestyle. Though it was no surprise, American teammates Gus Kenworthy and Nick Goepper followed with silver and bronze.

2 The Norwegian curling team was swept off the ice by rival Sweden Thursday, but they looked mighty stylish in defeat.

3 China's **Li Jianrou** also came up with a surprise gold in women's short track speed skating's 500 meters — and broke down in tears after the upset.

4 Reigning world champion Patrick Chan of Canada was edged out after the short program in men's figure skating by 19-year-old Japanese rising star **Yuzuru Hanyu**. Fellow teen, Jason Brown of the U.S., enters the long program in sixth.

5 Americans Heather Richardson and Brittany Bowe, the world record holder, were expected to challenge for 1,000-meter long track gold. Instead, China's **Zhang Hong** won, with both Americans off the podium.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2



5



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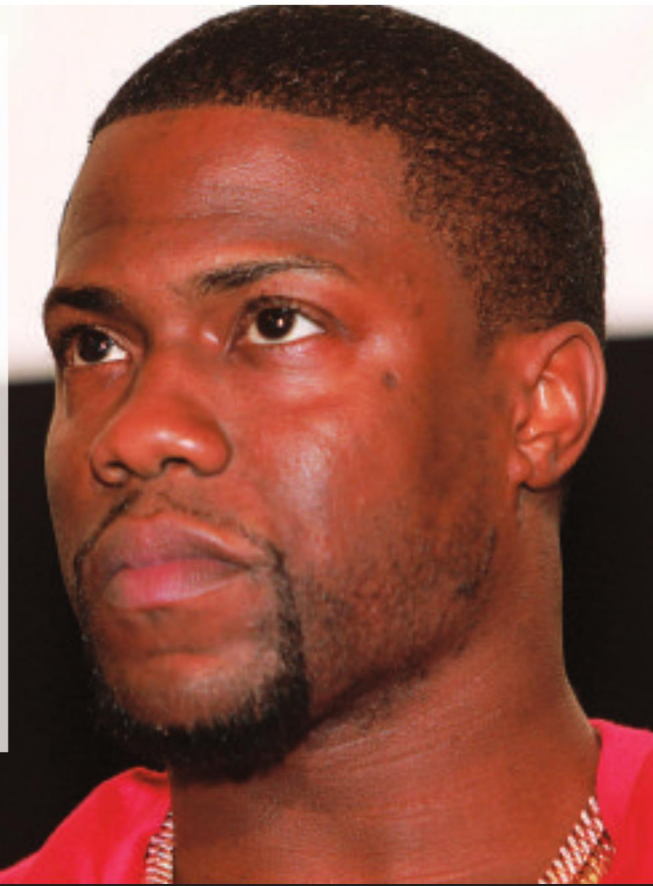
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KEVIN HART

The comic/actor talks making himself available to his fans and having a thick shell against critics.

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Kevin Hart has become a star of comedy, film and social media. / WIREIMAGE



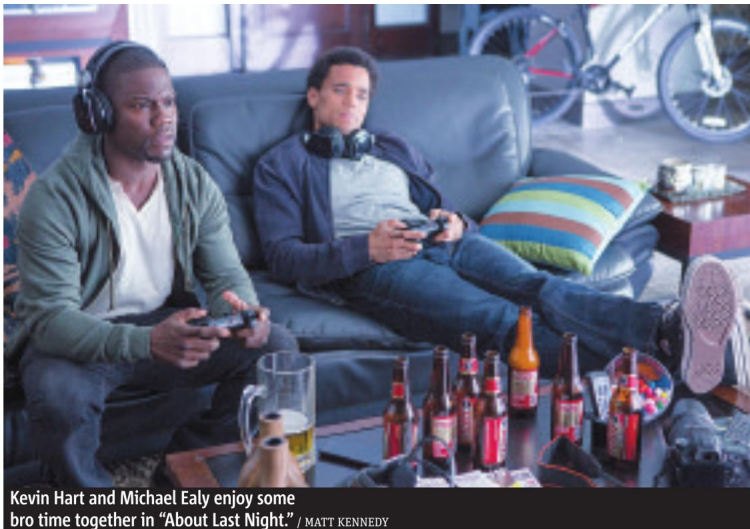
Kevin Hart is already having a pretty decent 2014, with last month's "Ride Along" breaking January box office records to bring in more than \$90 million worldwide in its first three weeks of release. He's hoping that success continues in February with "About Last Night." One thing is for sure: He's not letting bad reviews get to him — even when the critics are trying to get his attention.

You're incredibly active on social media.

I'm very serious about it. It's not a game. This is not something I take for granted. I'm very, very, very committed to social media and interacting with my fans the way that I do. It's something that I think people really, really take for granted, and they shouldn't. It's free promotion, but at the same time it keeps you in contact with your fan base.

When did it first occur to you to utilize it so much?

Well, from the word "jump." When I first saw my numbers going to what they grew to, I said I would be a fool to not dive in as much as I could, because this is basically promotion that the studio doesn't have. This is you having a direct connect with your



Kevin Hart and Michael Ealy enjoy some bro time together in "About Last Night." / MATT KENNEDY

Sticks and stones

How to deal

How do you ignore all the negative stuff, especially when it's directed right at your Twitter handle?

I laugh at it. Listen, I understand that with any success comes a certain level of negativity. You don't escape it — it happens. It's just, are you a person that feeds into it or are you a person that smiles and shrugs it off

and walks away from it? I think that the ones that survive and make it are the ones who can laugh and go, "That's crazy, look what people say" and then still move on. You know, for every 30 people that love and support you, you're going to have three to five that hate you. It's what life is, it's the nature of what we put ourselves in. It ain't all going to be pretty.

fans. When I say to my fans, "First 200 people to meet me at Applebee's, I want to treat you," they're going to come. And those 200 people in there get to meet me, connect with me, talk to me. You have to have ways of showing that you are giving back — "Thank you, guys, for what you do, which is support me." I'm not a ghost. I'm not the legend that you never see.

I saw someone included your Twitter handle in a bad review of "Ride Along."

A critic's job is to critique. At the end of the day, as an actor, if you allow that stuff to get to you, you're a fool. But you've got to ask yourself, how do critics feel when they critique something, they trash it and then it shows up and it's a record-breaking box office hit? Then you just have to go back into your critic hole and critique some more. But I don't knock it — it's what you're paid to do. Your job is to critique and that's your world of expertise. But if [the film is] getting an A cinema score — which means everybody's walking out happy — then that means you have to question yourself, what you like and where your expectations are. It's like when I did "Soul Plane" — people judged that. "Soul Plane" was supposed to be a stupid movie about stereotypes. You're picking the wrong movie to critique. You're wasting your talent on this one, you should be over there on the one that deserves the critiquing, where they're actors and they're polished. This is stupid because it's supposed to be stupid.



NED EHRBAR
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2 CULTURE



Goin' back

Before he was

Kevin Hart is one of the biggest comics and movie stars right now. But fame didn't come right away. Here's some early roles:

'DEATH OF A DYNASTY' (2003): In this rap scene parody by Roc-A-Fella co-founder Damon Dash, Hart — in his third film — plays five roles, including P. Diddy.

'EPIC MOVIE' (2007): Hart made the rounds in parody movies, including the third and fourth "Scary Movie"s. He also, sadly, found himself in a few of the dreaded Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer pictures.

'NOT EASILY BROKEN' (2009): All comics eventually find their way into a drama, but technically Hart has already done that, playing Morris Chestnut's pal "Tree."

'PARTY DOWN' (2009): As he was getting bigger, Hart guest-starred on an episode of the cult show, playing a rapper hired to entertain a Sweet 16 party. Instead he just gets bumbling team leader Ron Donald (Ken Marino) high.

Apologies to David Mamet

Remake. The playwright suffers another faithless (but not terrible) adaptation of one of his greats.

The 1986 rom-com "About Last Night..." claimed to be an adaptation of David Mamet's coarse, cynical 1974 play "Sexual Perversity in Chicago." But all it really kept was the opening — a dude talk tete-a-tete about the previous night's escapades — plus Chicago. "About Last Night" is even less faithful. In addition to chucking the title ellipsis, it's set in L.A. And though it starts the same, it quickly devolves into Kevin Hart ad-libs about "whiskey d—" and someone having "the

John Legend of penises."

The bare bones set-up remains: There are two men — nice Danny (Michael Ealy) and crude Bernie (Hart) — and two women — nice Debbie (Joy Bryant) and crude Joan (Regina Hall). The crude ones hook up first, followed by the nice ones. Initially it seems we'll be getting tonal whiplash, jerked back and forth between the grotesquely over-the-top and the sickly sweet.

But around the second act, Danny and Debbie both relax, reveal pockets of humor and the picture settles into a pleasant groove. While Bernie and Joan angrily split, Danny and Debbie move in together, only to find that cohabitation brings forth unexpected stresses and intimacy issues. The screenplay, by "Bachelorette"s

Leslye Headland, aims for a balance between broad yucks and real insight, which luckily is not the same as having heart. Hijinks remain, although having Danny hit up Halloween dressed as Ike Turner — opposite Debbie's Tina — is a special kind of miscalculation.

Only in the third act does it fumble. It's not insincere, but it is semi-sincere, as though it had no interest in rotely moving our lead couple from Splitsville back into each other's arms, so it didn't really try. (The end credits come up unusually fast, as though everyone couldn't wait to get out of there.) The 1986 film isn't too hot, but it does handle some of the details better, and it features one of the few excellent turns from Demi Moore. The scene where

See more at
www.metro.us



Kevin Hart and Regina Hall play the fun couple in the "About Last Night" remake. / MATT KENNEDY

Review

'About Last Night'

Director: Steve Pink

Stars: Kevin Hart,
Michael Ealy

Rating: R

● ● ● ● ●

she confronts boyfriend Rob Lowe (before he was funny), more concerned than hurt or angry about not knowing much about him despite their sharing an apartment, is one bit that should have made the remake crossover.

But the actors help. Ealy is unfairly good-looking, but he has a genuine shyness that makes him charming and legitimately

modest, not faux-modest. He and Bryant play the boring couple, but they have just enough personality that their story doesn't lead to thumb-twiddling as we await Hart and/or Hall's barnstorming return. The best part of the movie: no Kevin Hart short jokes.)



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Gabriella Wilde and Alex Pettyfer romantically neck in the back of a pickup truck in the "Endless Love" remake. / QUANTRELL D. COLBERT

Don't worry, it ends



Another remake. The "Endless Love" redo is more Nicholas Sparks than the sickly original.

When filmmaker John Waters, usually a champion of all things campy and trashy, refers to a film as "awful" and "excruciating," you know it has problems.

That's what he once said about "Endless Love," the 1981 adaptation of Scott Spencer's 1979 novel, one of his favorite books. If you've seen the notorious film, you'll understand what made Waters' jaw so tight. Director Franco Zeffirelli — who already tackled doomed young love when he adapted "Romeo and Juliet" in 1968 — took Spencer's tale of intense sexual obsession and made it ridiculous and histrionic. The hopelessly wooden Martin Hewitt was the unhinged youth whose undying love for a girl (Brooke Shields) brought destruction to her whole family. Of course, even if you haven't seen the movie, you've spent your whole life hearing the Oscar-nominated, Lionel Richie-Diana Ross duet that served as the movie's theme song.

The new adaptation of

"Love" doesn't even have a new theme song, nor does it seem to bear any resemblance to Spencer's novel or Zeffirelli's original film. Despite leaving in a few familiar moments (there is still a love scene by a fireplace), director Shana Feste ("Country Strong") goes for a full revamp. Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde play the main teen lovebirds, who, unlike the original lovebirds, fall in love AFTER they graduate high school. And instead of David coming from an affluent family and Jade being the product of a bohemian household, this one has Jade as the introverted daughter of rich parents (Bruce Greenwood and Joely Richardson), while David is the son of a single, grease monkey dad (Robert Patrick).

Fortunately, this version of "Love" does stick to the original story's central conflict, as Jade's dad

comes between their love. Irrational to the point of being downright sociopathic, Jade's father is the one who goes off the rails, not David. Despite having a checkered past with the law, the movie makes Pettyfer's David out to be too earnest, too polite and too swoony to become a love-sick stalker.

Safe and predictable, there is nothing remotely surprising (and therefore interesting) about this rudimentary remake. The movie is so simple and sappy in its plotting that it seems more suited for the Hallmark Channel than the big screen. It also doesn't take much to see that it's sampling more from the work of Nicholas Sparks than Spencer's book. Since there isn't a movie adaptation of a Sparks novel coming out this February, as it seems to be the case every year, this movie jumps on this opportunity and envisions how Sparks would've handled "Love" if he had written it.

This "Endless Love" may not be as much of a disaster as the virtually unwatchable original. But, just like that movie, it still doesn't do right by the book.

CRAIG D. LINDSEY
letters@metro.us

Review

'Endless Love'

Director: Shana Feste

Stars: Gabriella Wilde, Alex Pettyfer

Rating: PG-13



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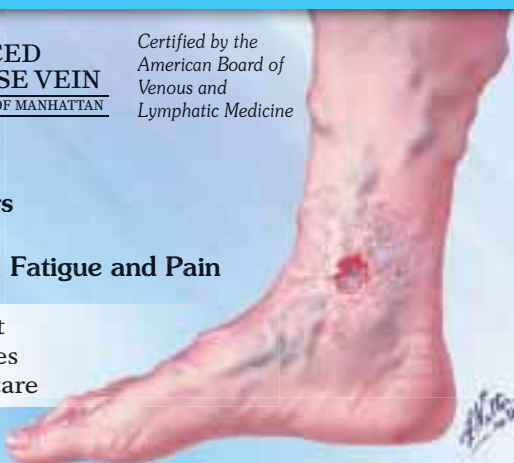
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Down with love

It's Valentine's Day, which doesn't mean you need to torture yourself with a film affirming the power of love. Instead, snuggle up with one that speaks to the other extreme. Here are some anti-romances to warm your heart during that chilliest of Hallmark holidays.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us



'Gone with the Wind'

(1939): Scarlett O'Hara loves Ashley Wilkes but settles for Rhett Butler. After years of being jerked around, he finally leaves, complete with one of the most badass eff-yous in the movies.



'Modern Romance'

(1981): Albert Brooks is Woody Allen if Woody Allen didn't love himself — he's a self-absorbed monster who targets mates the way a cat does a mouse. His second

directorial feature begins with him breaking up with his girlfriend (Kathryn Harrold). He immediately regrets this, then spends half the movie trying to win her back. Once she relents, he instantly suspects her of infidelity. Stanley Kubrick adored it.

'The War of the Roses'

(1989): There are lots of movies where couples go from amour to outright hatred, but only one where they bust out weapons and fight to the death inside a

darkened mansion. Director Danny DeVito never softens up, not even at the end, when it seems rich suburbanites-turned-psychopaths Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner might have a change of heart. They don't.



'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'

(2004): Oh, if we could erase the bad memories of a failed relationship, as Jim Carrey's sad sack does in Charlie Kaufman and Michel Gondry's manic breakup fantasy.

'Blue Valentine'

(2010): First they're falling in love. Then they're breaking up. Then they're having hot sex. Then they're having crap sex. This goes back and forth between a couple's start and their bitter end.



'Blue Is the Warmest Color'

(2012): Great as this is at capturing first love, it's even sharper at capturing

the fallout, when one's ex has the nerve to not only move on, but find someone better and more mature. Love, as Def Leppard says, bites.

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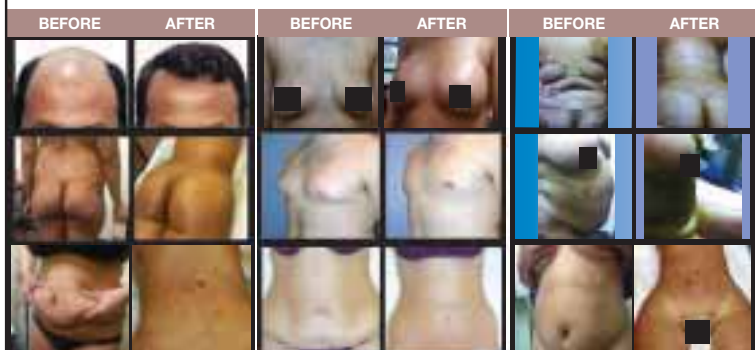
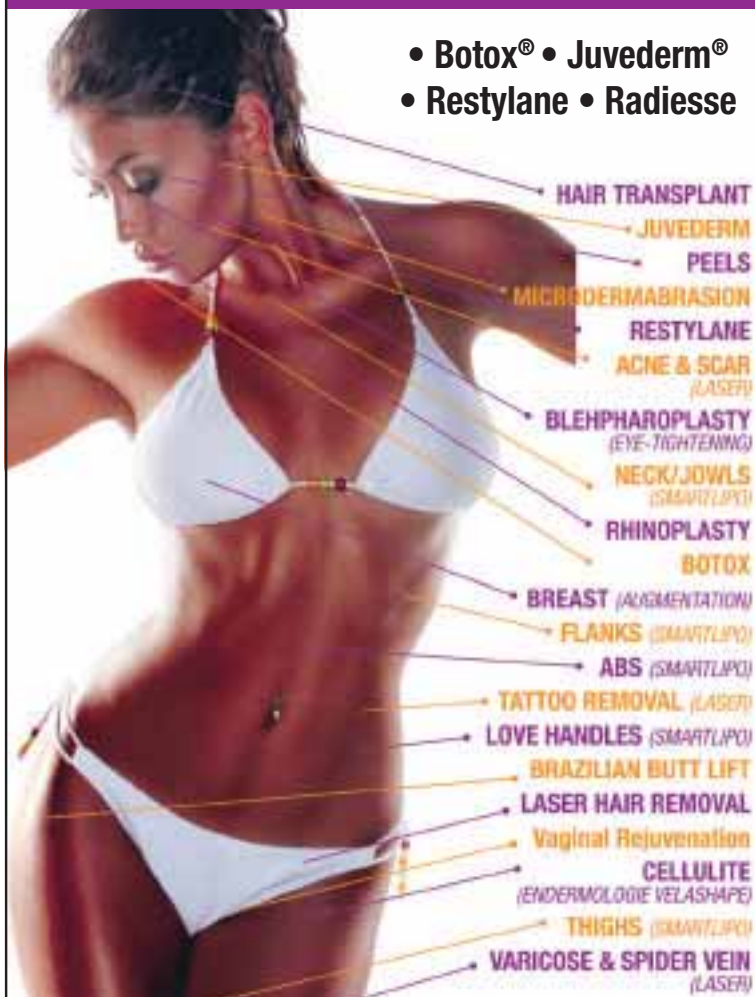
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Laughing at 'Divorce'

Interview. Musical revue "Til Divorce Do Us Part" reverses the way we look at getting dumped.



On Feb. 14, guests will go home with gift bags — because Ruthe Ponturo believes everyone should get chocolate on Valentine's Day. Visit www.tildivorcethemusical.com for tickets. / CAROL ROSEGG

Inspiration

So how did this musical get started?

Almost three years ago now, I had been married, very happily married, for 34 years. And my husband decided that he no longer wanted to be married to me. I had always been in musical theater, taught and choreographed, and I just started — I don't know how it happened really — I just started hearing songs in my head. One of my best friends [John Thomas Fischer] said, "You should write a cabaret show about the divorce." I asked him if he wanted to collaborate.

How did the songs start to take on a narrative structure?

There's Dear Dottie, which is played by [Fischer]. Dear Dottie is an advice columnist for divorcees. So it's a Dear Abby kind of a thing. Women from all over the world write him letters. The first one is from "Corn-Swaddled in Kentucky," and that's a country western song, which is my ode to Loretta Lynn. And then there's a song from "Randy in Rans-tadt" about dating again — Match.com. That's a very Marlene Dietrich song. Every song is a different genre. So that's how we tie the show together.

Have you tried that yourself, Match.com?

No, I have not yet. I'm too busy and I'm not really interested. Even though a few people have tried: "Tell me when you're ready to be set up." It's like, "Never!" I took care of a man for a long time, now I'm taking care of me.

Do all of the stories reflect your experience?

Well it started off being inspired by my stories, but so many of the stories are universal. ... Everybody's been dumped by somebody. It doesn't matter if your husband is 60 or if your boyfriend's 30. It could be the same exact scenario. And you have all kinds of the same feelings: You hurt, you want to laugh, you wish sometimes that they would get run over by a bus. Everybody has been through it, unfortunately — unless you married your eighth grade sweetheart.

What do you hope audience members take away from it?

The show really is about the woman that is empowered in her life. She discovers strength

in herself that she didn't even know was there. And that's what I think people take away from it: "I don't have to rely on anybody to be a happy person." ... And I actually think that's what a lot of young gals take from it. It's not that they are going to get married and then their husband will leave them. I think they really get: "If I have a great marriage, fantastic; and if I don't ever find that, also fantastic."

Then again, it's a comedy.

I always feel like if you can't laugh about it, you're just going to be crying about it. And then you mess up your mascara. That's why I was so determined. I think that's what got me through. It was very Scarlett O'Hara. And it is very hard sometimes. Sometimes you go into the pity party. But I literally would time it. I'd say, "OK, you can do this crybaby stuff for 10 or 15 minutes, and then you just got to get out of the house and do something. Call somebody, go to the movies, go eat french fries."

And now you're a lyricist!

That's another great thing. If Tony hadn't left me, I never would have figured it out that I could actually write songs, and how fun it was to do so. To sit with a co-writer at your piano and just bang out songs is really fun. In my case, one door closed and another opened. ... I'm very happy, and I wish him — whatever. [Laughs]



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tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

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AFTERNOON OF A FAUN: TANAQUIL LE CLERCO (NR) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:30; Sun 12:00-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:00.
JIMMY P: PSYCHOTHERAPY OF A PLAINS INDIAN (NR) 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15

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AUSTERIA (NR) Sun 9:00
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THE CONSTANT FACTOR (CONSTANS) (NR) Sat 9:00
THE HOUR-GLASS SANATORIUM (SANATORIUM POD KLEPSYDRĄ) (NR) Fri 7:00; Sun 4:30.
INNOCENT SORCERERS (NIEWINNI CZARODZIEJE) (NR) Sun 7:00
THE PROMISED LAND (ZIEMIA OBIECANA) (NR) Sat 1:30
TRZEBA ZABIC TE MILOSC (NR) Sat 7:00
THE WEDDING (WESELE) (NR) Sat 4:45

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INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE ATTORNEY (BYUNHOIN) (NR) Fri 6:25, 9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 6:25-9:35-12:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 11:40, 6:35.C INDEPENDENT;DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
BEIJING LOVE STORY (BEIJING AI QING GU SHI) (NR) 11:35, 2:35, 5:40, 8:40, 11:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 10:25, 1:25, 4:30, 7:30.C INDEPENDENT;DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
DATE AND SWITCH (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
DEVIL'S DUE (R) 10:30, 12:05, 12:55.CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri 7:15, 10:10, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 10:30-11:50-1:15-2:35-4:00-5:20-6:45-8:05-9:30-10:50-12:15. Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri 2:00, 4:25, 7:05, 12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 11:15-2:00-4:25-7:05-9:40-12:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
GUNDAY (NR) 10:50, 2:25, 6:05, 9:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HASEE TOH PHASEE (NR) Fri 12:35, 3:50, 10:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat 12:35-3:50-7:20-10:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 5:25-8:45-12:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HER (R) Fri 11:05, 2:10, 5:20, 8:25, 11:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:05-2:10-5:20-8:25.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG (PG-13) Fri 2:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 2:50-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 12:25, 3:50, 7:25, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
I, FRANKENSTEIN 3D (PG-13) Fri 3:45, 6:20, 8:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 5:05-7:40-10:10-12:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
LABOR DAY (PG-13) Fri 10:00, 12:50.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:20-2:10.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital

Presentation
LONE SURVIVOR (R) 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:10, 5:15, 6:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:15-11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:15-7:15-8:15-9:15-10:15-11:15-12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15-5:20-6:15-7:15-8:15-9:15-10:15-11:15-12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE NUT JOB (PG) 11:35, 1:50, 4:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Fri 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30-12:30. Digital Presentation; 12:00-3:00-6:00-9:00-12:00. ETX: Enhanced Theatre Experience; Sat 6:30-9:30-12:30. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-11:30-1:00-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:30-1:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-11:30-1:00-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:30-1:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30-12:30. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation;IMAX
ROMEO AND JULIET (BROADWAY HD) (NR) Fri 7:30; Sun 2:00.
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25, 1:00. Digital Presentation; Fri 10:00-9:30. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-12:10-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:25-1:00. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:55-12:10-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:25-1:00. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) Fri 10:40, 2:40, 6:40, 10:40, 11:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 11:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:40-2:40-6:40-10:40. Digital Presentation

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ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) 9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 10:00, 11:40. Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 9:45, 12:50, 4:05, 7:20, 10:40. Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) Fri 12:00, 8:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:15-8:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) 10:00, 12:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-11:20. Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 9:30, 12:00, 4:45, 7:00, 9:20. RealD 3D
HER (R) 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:05, 11:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) Fri 5:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 5:45. Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) Fri 9:30, 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 9:45-12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15. RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 10:30, 1:00, 2:15, 3:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-1:00-2:15-3:15-3:45-6:15-8:45-11:00. Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri 10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 6:45, 7:45, 9:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-11:15-1:15-2:00-4:00-4:50-6:45-7:45-9:30-10:30. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:50, 12:35, 3:20, 6:05, 8:50, 11:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45. Digital Presentation;IMAX
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) 3:45, 8:45, 11:10. Digital Presentation

VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) Fri 9:30, 11:05. Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 9:35-11:20. Digital Presentation
WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 10:45, 2:40, 6:30, 10:15. Digital Presentation

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13th & Broadway
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 12:50, 4:20, 7:40, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
FROZEN (PG) 11:00, 1:35, 6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

Descriptive Video Service; Sun 9:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LONE SURVIVOR (R) Fri and Sat 12:30, 3:40, 6:45, 9:40, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sun 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 12:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:50, 8:50, 10:50, 11:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sun 11:00-12:00-2:00-3:00-5:00-6:00-7:50-8:50-10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

6:30-7:10-8:10-9:10-10:00-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) Fri and Sat 11:40, 2:20, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10, 12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sun 11:40-2:20-5:10-7:30-10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 11:25, 3:15, 7:00, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

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FROZEN SING ALONG (PG) 4:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
HER (R) 12:40, 4:00, 7:20, 10:30
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13) 6:40, 9:50
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 11:20, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LABOR DAY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:25, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions &

THE NUT JOB (PG) 11:30, 1:45, 4:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 11:15, 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:10, 12:10, 1:10, 1:50, 2:50, 3:50, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:10, 8:10, 9:10, 10:00, 11:00, 11:50, 12:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; Sun 11:10-12:10-1:10-1:50-2:50-3:50-4:30-5:30-

ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri 10:00, 11:00, 11:35, 1:30, 2:15, 4:00, 4:55, 6:30, 7:30, 8:05, 8:35, 9:15, 9:30, 10:15, 10:40, 11:15, 11:45, 12:30, 1:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00-11:35-1:30-2:15-4:00-4:55-6:30-7:30-8:05-8:35-9:15-9:30-10:15-10:40-11:15-11:45-12:30-1:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-11:35-1:30-2:15-4:00-4:55-6:30-7:30-8:05-8:35-9:15-10:15-11:15. Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) Fri and Sat

9:20, 12:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:20. Digital Presentation
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) Fri 10:00, 3:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50, 1:15. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-3:20-4:20-7:00-9:50-1:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-3:20-4:20-7:00-9:50. Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) 10:50. Digital Presentation
FROZEN SING ALONG (PG) 1:00, 6:35. Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 10:00, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25. RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 10:10, 11:10, 12:45, 2:00, 3:45, 4:40, 6:00, 7:15, 9:45. RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 10:40, 12:15, 1:20, 3:00, 10:15. Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 1:10, 3:55, 6:45, 9:45, 12:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-1:10-3:55-6:45-9:45. Digital Presentation
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 1:25, 4:05, 6:50, 12:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-1:25-4:05-6:50-10:40. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30, 12:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30-11:20. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30, 1:15. Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX
THAT AWKWARD MOMENT (R) 10:00, 12:30, 5:35, 9:05, 11:35. Digital Presentation
VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) 12:20, 6:35. Digital Presentation
WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) Fri 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10, 1:05. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:00-10:10-1:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10. Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) Fri and Sat 2:50, 12:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 2:50-9:30. Digital Presentation

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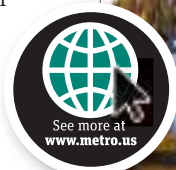
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1998 Broadway
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) 10:10, 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:55, 4:15, 7:35, 10:55. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (R) 10:00, 1:10, 7:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
ENDLESS LOVE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
HER (R) 10:00, 1:00, 4:05, 7:15, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 7:55, 10:50. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
LABOR DAY (PG-13) 5:05.C INDEPENDENT;DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 10:45, 4:10, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 1:30, 9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) 10:15, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35. Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP (PG-13) 10:40, 1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
ROBOCOP: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 11:20, 2:15, 5:10, 8:05, 11:00. Digital Presentation;IMAX;Reserved Seating
VAMPIRE ACADEMY (PG-13) 4:20, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
WINTER'S TALE (PG-13) 10:55, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45, 12:15. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 10:20, 2:15, 6:15, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Eat out. Don't have a dinner reservation? Buy one online

You remembered the flowers, the card and a box of chocolates, but something is missing. Did you remember to make a dinner reservation for Valentine's Day?

If not, you're in luck — and out of a good chunk of change. Savvy people on Craigslist and SellMyRes are selling their Valentine's Day dinner reservations. As of now, five reservations are available between 7:30 and 8 p.m. on SellMyRes at restaurants that include the West Village's Extra Virgin and the Financial District's Delmonico's.

On Craigslist, one brazen seller posted a reservation for two at Peter Luger Steakhouse (Great Neck location) for \$300. That poster agreed to meet the buyer at the restaurant to confirm the reservation. Another



Craigslist user posted a reservation for Peasant at the bargain price of \$50. The catch? It's an early dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Today's Epicure offers last-minute reservations

in New York City for members. Membership fees range from \$150 for a trial to \$1000 for the year.

Or you could just cook. **ANDREA PARK**



Move over, roses

This Valentine's Day, spring for a full, billowy bouquet. / PROVIDED

Valentine's Day. Still stuck on what kind of bouquet to get? Alix Astir, owner of Trellis Fine Florals, shares her tips on how to be unique.

Day gift for their special lady, roses are guaranteed to droop after about a week, regardless of how well you care for them," she notes. "The exotic orchid is a much more attractive alternative because it's a rare flower — and also has a much longer shelf life than the rose."

3 Look for classic elegance. But if you prefer to stick to roses, Astir has a tip to make those blooms pop. "Adding long-stem roses into a bejeweled or engraved vase — or even an antique silver bowl — shows that you've put some thought into presentation, and that you've gone out of your way to make this day extra special," she notes.

METRO

2 Go for voluptuousness.

"Look for arrangements that offer a full, billowy bouquet. Ask your florist to mix full-blooms such as peonies and garden roses with some equally expansive hydrangeas for an extra-voluptuous bouquet that will make other couples stop and stare," she advises.

This Valentine's Day, pick up a flower arrangement that is more edgy, thoughtful and less clichéd than your typical bouquet of roses. Alix Astir, owner of Trellis Fine Florals, shows you how.

1 Go for sensuality. "While most guys consider roses to be the no-brainer Valentine's

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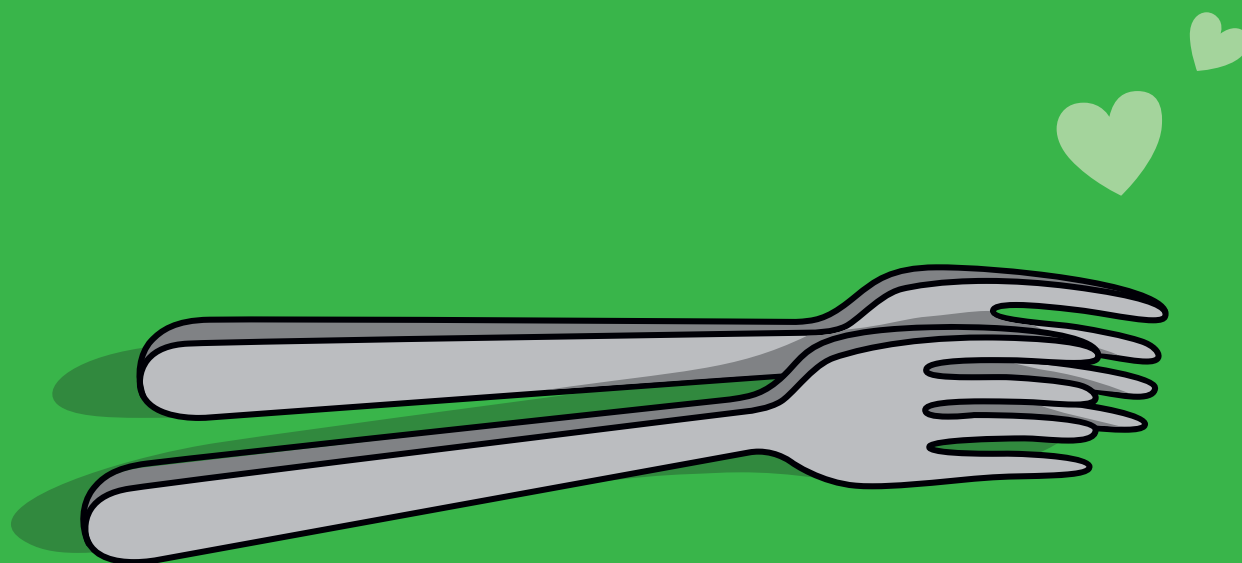
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These forks are spooning.



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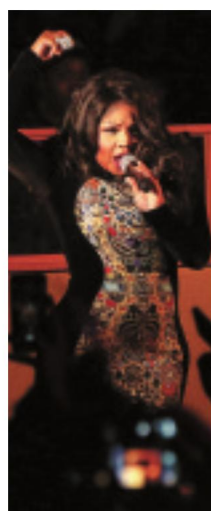
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Lil' Kim expecting a lil' baby

Look out, world. Lil' Kim is going to be a mom. The notorious rapper debuted a growing baby bump at the Blonds Fashion Week after-party in New York earlier this week, telling Us Weekly, "I'm so excited. I'm a few months along. I can't wait to be a mom!" Kim is keeping the father's identity under wraps for now, and she has no plans of slowing down. "I'm still going to work," she says. "I'm still going to be hardcore. The baby has made me even more of a beast."

Drake versus Rolling Stone

Drake has a little problem with Rolling Stone.

The singer/actor/Canadian has now sworn off magazine interviews after he claims Rolling Stone tossed his cover for the late Philip Seymour Hoffman for this month's issue — and misquoted him regarding his "mentor" Kanye West's "Yeezus" album.

"There were some real questionable bars on there. Like that 'Swaghi!' line? Come on, man. Even Fabolous wouldn't say some s— like that," he supposedly said, which the mag then printed. Drake took to Twitter to recant the line. "I never commented on Yeezus



for my interview portion of Rolling Stone," he wrote. "They also took my cover from me last minute and ran the issue."

Regarding the "took my cover" mention — that's media speak for Drake

being promised the cover in exchange for the interview. He was apparently then bumped by the editors for Hoffman.

"I'm disgusted with that. RIP to Phillip Seymour Hoffman. All respect due. But the press is evil," he wrote. (It should be noted that all of Drake's tweets have since been deleted.) "I'm done doing interviews for magazines. I just want to give my music to the people. That's the only way my message gets across accurately."

That, or Twitter.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Rolling Stone stands by its story. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Spotted. Celebs front row and center at New York Fashion Week

1 Tyra Banks, Olivia Palermo, Sarah Paulson, Katie Holmes and Anna Kendrick at Marchesa

2 Reese Witherspoon and Gwyneth Paltrow at Hugo Boss

3 Diane Kruger at Hugo Boss **GETTY IMAGES**



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Ralph Lauren's cozy collection is like fashion hot chocolate

Fashion Week diary

Follow our editors' diaries as they take you to the front row of NYFW. For more coverage, visit www.metro.us and www.modmods.com.

WEDNESDAY

5:10 p.m.

Katie Holmes emerges from backstage, looking ravishing in red lace. I suddenly remember that Marchesa devoted a recent collection to Miss Havisham — the tragic, crazed, jilted bride in "Great Expectations" — which makes this literary setting particularly apropos.

5:20 p.m.

The show opens with an exquisite copper, blush and gold "tartan" lace dress, worn with some lethal-looking bronze Louboutins. Indeed, Georgina Chapman and her partner Keren Craig have infused every one of these deeply romantic looks with a bit of dark, twisted glamour: A fiery orange ostrich feather skirt comes paired with an black fishnet top; an embellished, bustled turtleneck gets some extra sizzle with a pair of S&M-tinged lace-up trousers; and a strapless cocktail dress with copper floral detailing is made out of pony hair. The designers were influenced by the Scottish Highlands, but not in the obvious way. Instead of plaid, we have the colors of bonfires and smoky fog, the dramatic draping of a bagpiper's cloak, the shape of a kilt — though the last look, a billowy, sculptural, off-the-

shoulder saffron stunner, evokes the legendary dancer and courtesan Lola Montez more than anything else.

RAQUEL LANERI

THURSDAY

10:40 a.m.

Well hello, winter white! This morning's snowstorm didn't stop Ralph Lauren from showing his standout fall collection. In fact, it seems to make an even stronger case for the ivory wrap coat and plush furs — in sweet shades of lavender and cotton candy — that he's sending down the runway. (The lineup has editors taking to Twitter to express how badly they wanted to be wearing the clothes at that second. Guilty.)

Karlie Kloss, in one of the show's opening all-white ensembles, looks like a chic power executive from Colorado. Wearing a cashmere turtleneck paired with slouchy trousers tucked into sneakers (!) and topped off with a long double-breasted coat, she seems impervious to any kind of polar vortex that might come her way.

Even the eveningwear is ski chalet-ready. An attention-commanding silk skirt featuring a slit up-to-there, worn with a gauzy gray sweater, is the week's best answer to all the street-style peacocks being photographed in their skimpy outfits.

But the closing series of swoon-worthy satin gowns? Those should be admired all year 'round. **TINA CHADHA**



RALPH LAUREN

MARCHESA

WEDNESDAY

Art on the runway: Proenza Schouler

Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez extended fashion's love affair with clashing abstract prints through a series of hyper-graphic patterns that are so mesmerizing they make you feel like you're staring into a fire. Think: a computerized, pixelated version of Jackson Pollock. Rounded, sculptural shapes on coats, suits and dresses kept the arty feeling going throughout the collection. **KENYA HUNT**



WEDNESDAY

Chinoiserie and then some at Anna Sui

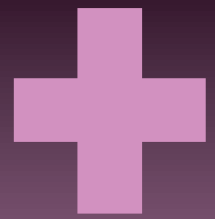
Sui's print-happy collection kicked off with looks in bold red and black. Images of old Chinese cityscapes and dragon prints — the designer drew inspiration from 1920s-era movie star Anna May Wong, the first Chinese-American to cross over — adorned some of her psychedelic, layered looks, which ranged from flowy pajama dressing to Chanel-style tweed skirt suits. **TC**



WEDNESDAY

Hugo Boss, no longer a boys club

Jason Wu's debut collection for Hugo Boss, which was the brand's first womenswear runway show, was all polish and immaculate tailoring in a very brand-appropriate neutral palette of gray, camel and black. Looks including a strappy charcoal cocktail dress and snug coats were tightly belted at the waist and reached well below the knee. They oozed of Wu's signature ladylike glam and clearly stated: "Move over, boys." **TC**



PLUS

Trending

Turtlenecks



JOIE



PHILOSOPHY



SALLY LAPOINTE

Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.
Don't feel neglected if someone doesn't go along with your plans. You could go along with the group or spend some time working independently.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.
Indulge in things you find pleasurable. Soothe your nerves by listening to your favorite music or enjoying a special meal.

Aries | March 21-April 20.
Go ahead, make the improvements you have been contemplating. Take the necessary action to reach an important goal.

Taurus | April 21-May 21.
Go over your records to determine whether you have been careless with money. Be honest with yourself and make adjustments to your budget.

Gemini | May 22-June 20.
Your outgoing nature will lead to an interesting invitation. Take advantage of the chance to expand your social circle.

Cancer | June 21-July 22.
A project will demand your full attention. Resist distractions and maintain your focus until you have perfected your approach.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.
Time spent worrying is time wasted. Keep your mind off your troubles by accomplishing something uplifting.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.
Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Make sure you are aware of what's expected, and don't be coerced into doing something.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.
Get out and mingle. Sitting at home will only make you more lethargic. Get up and indulge in something you've never done before.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.
Review contracts before you make a commitment. Make sure everyone is in agreement and that you are being treated fairly.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.
Enroll in a course, begin a creative endeavor or get involved in a sports activity. You will meet people with similar interests.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.
Temptation will lead to loss. Resist high-pressure sales tactics, and get all the details before you sign on the dotted line.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

Temple was a credit to her country

Those of us who remember Shirley Temple and her movies will miss that adorable smile. She was more than a child star of the '30s — in later years, she was a dedicated American who sought to make a difference for the common good. She ended up serving four Republican presidents in key diplomatic posts. By her service to our country, Shirley Temple Black demonstrated how she loved America; and in return, America loved her back. Rest in peace, Shirley Temple, and thanks for the memories.

**FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR.,
VIA EMAIL**

Addicts come with hard truths

Re: 'A friend in need might need friends' (Metro, Feb. 12) Well, obviously letter writer David DiBello has never been

involved with an active addict, and to that I say, you should thank God!

I can say that YES they were there, but trying to reason or help an active addict is like trying to reason with a can of soup! You can beg, scream, cry, help and enable. But an addict will do what they want and forsake all others. I know active addiction, I am married to a heroin addict and alcoholic. I lost everything and became homeless because of his addiction. I was manipulated into believing his lies, and I still tried to help him because I loved him. Finally, I had to let go, or I would lose myself. So, maybe that's what happened. They had to let go — remember free will? Think about that before you blame friends and family. Go to a meeting and listen to addicts speak. Or go to an Al-Anon meeting and listen to families speak — before you speak.

**MARGARET BRADLEY,
VIA EMAIL**

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	4	7	9					6
9	5		8					
				7				3
3		9	7	1		5		
			3		5			
		5		2	6	1		9
2				8				
					1		9	8
8					9	2	1	

	3					4		
		2	8			9		3
			3	7	6	5		
		6	1	4	9	8		
				8				
		7	6	2	3	4		
		5	4	6	1			
9		1			8	6		
	8					7		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

1 Big horn
5 Levee
9 Bakers' meas.
13 Small brown bird
14 Make into law
16 Sincere
17 Gawk at
18 Marshy inlet
19 Sushi-bar soup
20 Thin stratum
21 ER personnel
22 Later (2 wds.)
24 Mayberry kid
26 Low score
27 Funds for research
30 Submissive ones
34 Camel halts
35 Altiplano locale
36 Give a high-five
37 Yellow Pages
38 Horoscope
39 Language suffix
40 Tells tales
42 Corona
43 Champagne glass
45 Raga musician
47 Put varnish on
48 Not coarse
49 Hot rum drink
50 Wear away
53 Moo companion
54 Sign of the future

58 Pants purchase

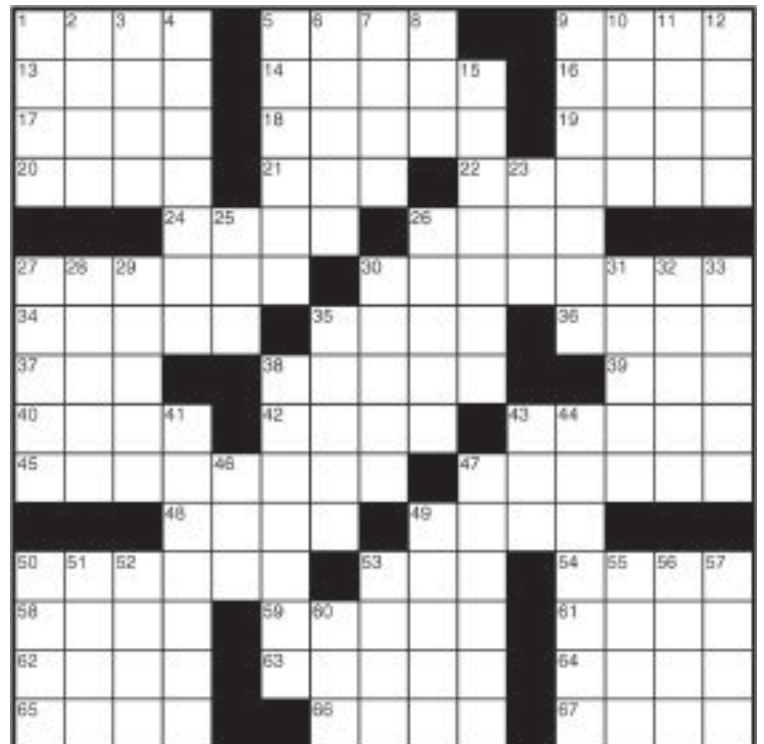
59 Bawl out
61 Percolate
62 Muslim mystic
63 Three-legged stand
64 Director — Ephron
65 Byron's works
66 — -majeste
67 Break suddenly

Down

1 Couples
2 Argue for
3 Lugosi of "Dracula"
4 Flowerlike fish
5 Flotsam and jetsam
6 Shallow
7 Starr and Lenz
8 Kind of system
9 Powwow drums (hyph.)
10 Quick drive
11 Tijuana coin
12 Powder, to some
15 Ignore (2 wds.)
23 Bruins' ice great
25 Qt. parts
26 Don Diego de la Vega
27 Touchdowns
28 Arm bones
29 Debit's opposite
30 Handed out, as cards
31 Walrus hunter

32 Try a mouthful
33 Burn up the road
35 Temporary state
38 Kind of lantern
41 Veldt vacations
43 Egg — yung
44 Coral-reef pools
46 Disencumber
47 Hold gently
49 Bursts of laughter
50 Lhasa —
51 Modem-speed unit
52 Widespread
53 Big name in speakers
55 Gaze dreamily
56 Philanthropist — Cornell
57 Tide type
60 BTU kin

Thursday's answer





US hockey opens with rout

Olympics. The quest to avenge a silver medal in 2010 began with an easy win for the Americans.

The U.S. men's hockey team couldn't have written a better way to start their gold medal charge in Sochi.

John Carlson scored 14:27 into the Group A opener to put the U.S. up 1-0 over Slovakia. And while the Slovaks tied it up 24 seconds into the second period, it was ugly from there on out. Paul Stastny scored twice in the second period and Ryan Kesler, David Backes, Phil Kessel and Dustin Brown all added markers in the second, as well.

Jonathan Quick got the start in net over Vancouver hero Ryan Miller and Jimmy Howard,



Carlson scored America's first Olympic goal, sneaking one past Blues goalie Jaroslav Halak. / GETTY IMAGES

Russia 5, Slovenia 2

A loss to Slovenia is not how Olympic host Russia envisioned beginning their pressure-packed quest for gold.

- Luckily for the Russians,

they kept things together after a rough second period. Alex Ovechkin and former Devils forward Ilya Kovalchuk both had goals in the win for Russia.

but had to make just 22 saves in the 7-1 win over a team loaded with NHL talent, including Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara and brothers Marian and Marcel Hossa.

The United States plays host country Russia in their second round-robin game early Satur-

day at 7:30 a.m. Eastern time.

Canada 3, Norway 1

The defending champions didn't get off to as good a start as their southern brethren, but came through with a win in the end.

With only one NHL player on their team — the Rangers' Mats Zuccarello — the Norwegians kept even at 0-0 through one, only to have Shea Weber and Jamie Benn break through in the second to take a 2-0 lead and stave off a national calamity.

Norway's Patrick Thoresen and Canada's Drew Doughty traded goals in the third period.

Canadiens goaltender Carey Price got the start and was solid in net.

Canada next plays Austria Feb. 14 at noon Eastern time.



MARK OSBORNE

mark.osborne@metro.us

3

SPORTS

Lock down safety

Ed Reed has \$50K stolen

Jets safety Ed Reed reported to Houston police he had \$50,000 in cash stolen from his car after driving from one bank post-withdrawal to another to make a second transaction. Reed said he believed he was followed. He is currently a free agent.



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METRO'S FANTASY GURU BREAKS IT ALL DOWN.



NFL news

The Colts have hired Rob Chudzinski as a special assistant. It's fantastic news for the entire offense, as OC Pep Hamilton's scheme handcuffed Andrew Luck.

look at some of this year's candidates.

Professional Profar

Rewind to about 15 months ago, and you couldn't go anywhere in baseball circles without hearing about the game's No. 1 prospect, Jurickson Profar. Now everyone is off him because he struggled to adjust to major league pitching, hitting .234 with six homers in 286 at-bats. Relax. He was just 20 years old and didn't know where he was playing on a given day. Now he's the

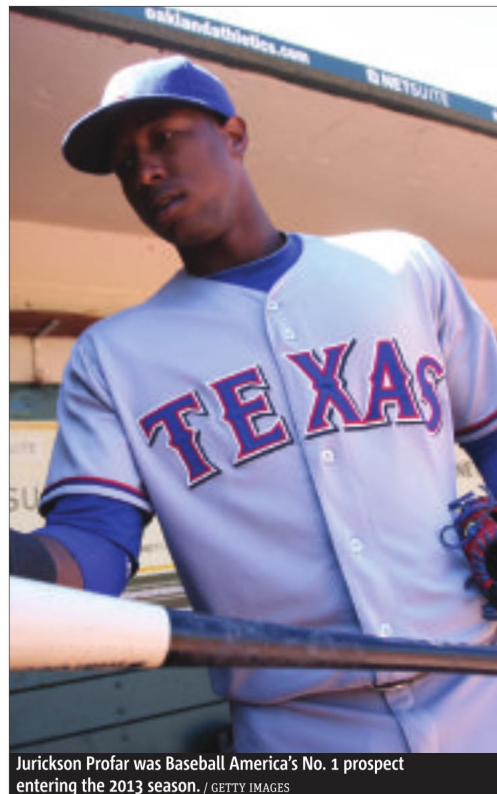
no-doubt second baseman and ready to erupt as part of a potent lineup.

Adam gonna eat

Adam Eaton (relax, not the ex-pitcher) is getting a fresh start with the White Sox after injuries derailed him in Arizona. Eaton, a true five-tool outfielder, has an excellent chance to win the starting center field and leadoff job. In his final year as a minor leaguer (with Triple-A Reno in 2012), he hit .381 with seven homers and 38 steals in 119 games.

Nice and messy

Devin Mesoraco was the No. 15 overall pick of the Reds back in 2007. Since then, he's gotten 589 MLB plate appearances. The results have been uninspiring, as evidenced by his .225 batting average, 16 homers and 62 RBIs. But the Reds traded away Ryan Hanigan, clearing the way for Mesoraco to be their primary catcher.



Jurickson Profar was Baseball America's No. 1 prospect entering the 2013 season. / GETTY IMAGES

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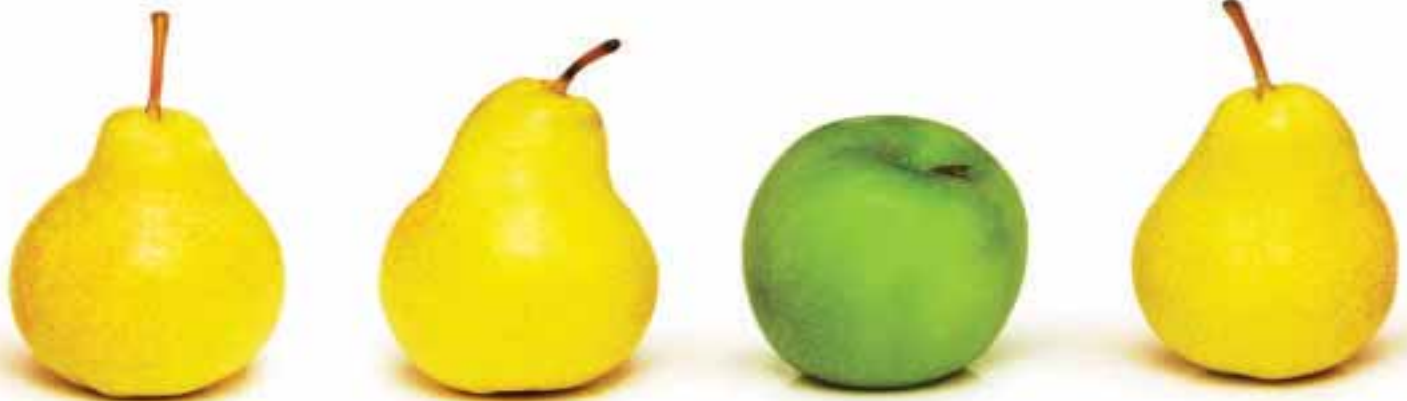
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Real Estate/Sale



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Homes

Homes

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-Thalia from New Jersey:
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Legal Notices

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
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Consumer Affairs will hold a
Public Hearing on Wednesday,
February 26, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on
a petition from Alpha Fusion
Inc to continue to, to maintain,
and operate a sidewalk café at
365 West 34th Street in the
Borough of Manhattan for a
term of two years.

REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF THE
PROPOSED REVOCABLE CONSENT
AGREEMENT MAY BE ADDRESSED
TO: DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, ATTN: FOIL OFFICER, 42
BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10004.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1275248
for Restaurant Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine & Beer at retail in a
Restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 2849
Jerusalem Ave. Wantagh,
NY 11793 for on-premise
consumption. Mizuno Sushi Inc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1276261
for On-Premises Liquor has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at
retail in a Restaurant under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at
105-13 Jamaica Ave., Richmond
Hill, NY 11418, for on-premise
consumption. Whiskey Bar Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
PURSUANT TO LAW,
that the NYC Department of
Consumer Affairs will hold a Public
Hearing on Wednesday, February
26, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John
Street, 11th floor, on a petition
from Rustic Table LLC d/b/a The
Quarter to continue to, to maintain,
and operate a sidewalk café at 522
Hudson Street in the Borough of
Manhattan for a term of two years.

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